

THE POWER OF PERSISTENCE, Small Group Notes
Rev. Dr. Jeremy Mahood
May 15 2016

1. Read PSALM 86 vs 1, 7, 14, 16
 - a. Why is David praying? What is the specific issue that is giving him trouble?
 - b. What are the reasons you can think of, why people uses prayer as a last resort?
 - c. Explain what you think John Bunyan meant when he wrote the following "You can do more than pray, after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed."
2. Read 1 Peter 5:8; Galatians 5:17
 - a. In what ways do people not see themselves as desperate today?
 - B. Discuss the comment that we seem so self sufficient that we don't feel the need to pray?
3. Read Psalm 86: 5 and 15
 - a. What are the characteristics that should make us not fear coming to God in prayer?
4. Read Psalm 86: 8-10
 - a. Describe the characteristics of God in these verses
 - b. Why is the importance of the phrase in verse 10 "you alone are God", in verse 10?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 4:4 and 2 Thessalonians 2:9
 - a. Explain what is happening in these verses?
 - b. How does this relate to verse 10 in the Psalm?
6. Now read Psalm 86: 1-10 out loud as a group. This is the first section of the Psalm.
7. Now read Psalm 86:11-13. This is section two.
 - a. In verse 11 David asks for two things from God and states two results. What are they?
 - b. Explain what you think David means by each of these ideas?
 - c. Read vs. 12. What promise does he make?
 - d. In your opinion what does the words "all my heart" mean? (NIV)
 - e. Read vs. 13. What is the great motivation for our prayerful devotion to God?
 - f. What do you think he meant by the phrase 'the depths of the grave'? (NIV)

8. Read Psalm 86:14-17. This is section three.
 - a. In verse 14, what is causing David distress? In what ways do you relate to this verse?
 - b. Read verse 15 again. What is the contrast between this verse and the preceding verse?
 - c. In verse 16 what three requests are made here? How do you relate your life circumstances to this verse?
 - d. Read verse 17. What request is made of God and why?
9. Based on this psalm:
 - a. How can we develop true joy and thankfulness in the midst of trials? Are we supposed to fake it when we don't feel it?
 - b. Why is a teachable heart essential when we're going through trials?
 - c. How does a defiant heart block God's mercy and love?
10. Please reread the entire psalm (86) and read it as a prayer to God.
11. Talk to your group about one thing that has helped you today from this lesson.
12. Share with your group an item for prayer

ITEMS TO PRAY FOR THIS WEEK

1. Praise God for the sale of Prete Street building that was completed this past week.
2. Pray for our youth as they head on the long weekend to their big convention called OVERFLOW. Pray that their lives would be changed and God would be glorified in them.
3. Pray for Father's Day, that men would accept invitations to come to church and that we would be prepared for them.
4. Pray for Plunge in the Park, our community baptism on June 26th. Pray for souls to be saved. Pray for the other churches who are participating, that they will feel encouraged and strengthened in their mission to reach out to others.